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Kent State Defendant Found Guilty

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Ravenna, Ohio

Jerry Rupe, 23, first of 25 persons to be tried in the Kent State University disorders climaxed by the death of four students, was convicted yesterday of interfering with a fireman at the scene of a campus fire.

Rupe, who never attended Kent State, was found guilty by a jury of eight men and four women of the single charge. The panel said it could not reach agreement on the other charges against Rupe — first degree riot, assault on a fireman, and setting fire to the campus ROTC building.

Charges against a second defendant, Peter C. Blik, 23, of Rochester, N.Y., were dropped after four prosecution witnesses testified they could not positively identify him as one of those who had started the fire in the ROTC building, which eventually burned down.

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